

B-4467

AFRICAN-AMERICAN SCHOOL NO. 9

BALTIMORE CITY, MD

This Renaissance Revival schoolhouse was built in 1897. It is a three-story building with a basement. The first floor is characterized by a rusticated brick treatment. There are four, grouped openings per bay. Private housing today. Access restricted.

MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES FORM
SANDTOWN-WINCHESTER SURVEY

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name African-American School No. 9

other names/site number Robert Brown Elliott (104)/ B-4467 (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 1431 Carey St.

not for publication

city or town Baltimore

vicinity N/A

state Maryland

code MD

county Baltimore City

code 510

zip code 21217

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

N/A

4. National Park Service Certification

N/A

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

buildings

sites

structures

objects

Total

1

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
(African-American School No.9)
(Baltimore City, MD)

(Page 2)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: EDUCATION

Sub: school

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC

Sub: multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Renaissance

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

roof

walls BRICK

other WOOD

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance See continuation sheet.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Ethnic Heritage

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
(African-American School No.9))
(Baltimore City, MD)

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Period of Significance 1897-1940

Significant Dates 1897

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Alfred Mason, architect

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Maps

Bromley, G.W. and Co. Atlas of the City of Baltimore, Vol. 1. Philadelphia: 1885, 1896.
Hopkins, G.M. Map of the City of Baltimore, Maryland. 1876, 1877.
Sanborn Map Company. Insurance Maps, Baltimore, Maryland, Vols. 2,3, and 7. New York: 1890, 1901, 1914, 1928.
Simmons, Isaac. 1852 Revision of the Thomas H. Poppleton Map. Baltimore: 1852.

Archives of the Board of Education, Baltimore City

Baltimore City Archives, Records of the Board of Education

Baltimore City School Survey (1951, revised 1961) and Context Statement (Maryland Historical Trust, 1990), CHAP files.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .555 acres

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(African-American School No. 9)
(Baltimore City, MD)

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UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	—	—	—	3	—	—
2	—	—	—	4	—	—

— See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Block 306, Lot 26

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries are based on a city lot(s) retaining original property lines.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Jo Lampl & Kay Fanning/Architectural Historians
organization Robinson & Associates date July 1992
street & number 1710 Connecticut Ave., NW telephone (202) 234-2333
city or town Washington state DC zip code 20009

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Housing Authority of Baltimore City
street&number P.O. Box 1917 telephone
city or town Baltimore state MD zip code 21203

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 5 & 6 Page 1

African-American School No. 9
name of property
Baltimore City, Maryland
county and State

HISTORIC CONTEXT

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture, Landscape
Architecture, and Community Planning; Social/Education/Cultural

Resource Type:

Category: building(s)

Historic Environment: urban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): education

Known Design Source: Alfred Mason, architect

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

African-American School School #9
name of property
Baltimore City, Maryland
county and StateDESCRIPTION

This school building, the earliest extant public school in the survey area, has the reassuring presence of a secured Renaissance palazzo. Built in 1897, the brick structure is three stories high and ten bays wide, and rests upon a raised basement. Its massing is defined as a three-part block: a central six-bay portion, flanked by two-bay wide projecting pavilions.

The four central bays of the facade on Carey Street are grouped closely together, further distinguishing the center of the building from the pavilion bays.

The all-brick building has a horizontal feel, due to its four tiers of regularly spaced large windows and its rusticated brick base. Windows are clustered in groups of four. The base of the building is separated from the upper floors by a heavy brick beltcourse. The only other decorative features are the small, recessed rectangular sections of brick which create a rhythm in the wall plane between window openings.

Two identical entrances, located within the center block but adjacent to each side pavilion, are arched. Window openings on the first and third floors also are arched, with one-over-one double-hung sash windows and transoms. Openings in the basement and second floor are flat-arched with splayed brick lintels. Original moldings at the spring level of the third floor window arches form a beltcourse across the facade. Small bosses are located between the uppermost windows in the corner blocks.

Originally, windows were of multiple glazing patterns. The basement windows had 1/1 sash. The round-headed windows had double-hung sash with an upper sash of five panes surrounding a central, rounded pane. The lower sash was divided into two panes by a central, vertical muntin. The flat-headed windows had a 6/2 configuration, with the lower sash containing the same vertical muntin. Above the doors were transoms of small, multiple lights. Today, the second-floor windows have 1/1 sash.

The flat-roofed structure has a modillion cornice with a pronounced overhang. Originally, a central decorative vent topped the tin roof.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1

African-American School No. 9
name of property
Baltimore City, Maryland
county and StateSIGNIFICANCE

This is the second-oldest extant school in Sandtown; the oldest extant school building is the Colored Primary School No. 9, located at the corner of Carrollton and Riggs.

This school was designed as Colored School No. 9 in 1897 by Alfred Mason, an architect with an office at 746 W. Baltimore Street. Mason was one of several architects awarded commissions by the City to draw up school plans. These plans were subject to the final approval of the Art Commission, and then the Mayor. According to the Baltimore City School Context Statement, this is one of several schools of the period which exemplifies a type: the "three story plan with larger classrooms, wider corridors, indoor latrines, fireproof construction and at least one assembly room, usually located on the third floor."²

The history of the names and numbers of the school is complicated and says much about race relations. The rapid changes in numbering and naming systems for the schools reflects the constantly changing view how to label (and thereby segregate) African-American schools:

1897	Colored School No. 9
1901	Public School #112
1908-14	Negro School #9
Current	Robert Brown Elliott #104

The 100 series was devised roughly at the turn of the century to separate the numbering system of the African-American schools from the caucasian schools. Within less than a decade, however, the schools were identified once again by the original series of numbers, but were now prefaced by the label "Negro."

² Page 35 of Baltimore City Schools Context Statement.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 2

African-American School No. 9
name of property
Baltimore City, Maryland
county and State

According to a 1908 article in the Afro-American, this school had the most pupils of all the African-American schools in the city at that time. Out of a total of 13,000 African American students projected to attend school year, 1,500 would be attending School 112, where George B. Murphy was principal. That same year, two other African-American schools in the survey area were described as in poor condition: School No. 118, at Calhoun and Gold Streets (demolished), and School No. 111 at Riggs and Carrollton (the original Colored Primary School No. 9) now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.)

In the citywide school survey of 1920-21, called the "Strayer Survey," the City found Elliott No. 112 in relatively poor shape to handle the increasing African-American school-aged population. The survey indicated a 20% projected increase in the population of the school district as a whole during the decade of the 1920s to 1930s. The survey predicated that the African-American population in the district would likely experience an increase in that decade of 28%. (The survey also indicated that 50% of the voters who registered in that district in 1920 were white.)

Out of a possible 1,000 points total, the Elliott School was given a fairly low ranking of 473. A score below 400, for example, indicated that a school "almost entirely lack[ed] the provisions needed for the health, safety, and education of the children."¹ Low scores were given for a variety of reasons, amongst which were:

- lack of playgrounds;
- non-fireproof structures;
- lack of or wooden fire escapes;
- unprotected heating bins;
- inadequate lighting-both natural and artificial; and
- insanitary outhouses or toilet facilities.

The most glaring problem at School 112 seems to have insufficient playground

¹ Quote from the Strayer Survey taken from the Baltimore City School Context Statement, prepared by the Maryland Historical Trust.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

African-American School No. 9
name of property
Baltimore City, Maryland
county and State

space; an increase in playground area was described as "essential,"² and it was noted that a new building was being erected to "relieve" the school. (This is probably a reference to a situation of overcrowding in the school. The new school "being erected" refers to the 1921 School 112 at Calhoun and Laurens. See B-4469.)

² Strayer Survey.

SANDTOWN-WINCHESTER/PENN-NORTH
RECONNAISSANCE-LEVEL SURVEY FORM

Survey No. B-4467

Neg. No. 6/0

Historic Name African-American School No. 9

Current Name/Use Elderly Housing

Address(es) 1431 Carey Street

Resource/Property Type

☐ Rowhouses
☐ Commercial Structure
☒ Public/Institutional Building
☐ Public Housing
☐ Site
☐ Other

☐ Attached

☒ Freestanding

Note: _____

Stories 3 + B

Primary Material brick Secondary Material wood

Roof Form flat

No. of Bays in Unit/Facade 10 If Rowhouse: ☐ Flat Front ☐ Swell Front ☐ Porch

Window Type: ☒ Double-Hung Door Type: ☐ Single-Leaf
☒ 1/1 Sash ☐ Double-Leaf
☐ 2/2 Sash ☐ Number of panels (if visible)
☐ 2/1 Sash ☐ Transom
☐ Other Sash
☒ Transom

Architectural Style Renaissance Revival Date c. 1890-1901

Noteworthy Features: Modillioned cornice with pronounced overhang. First-floor brick coursed to suggest rusticated stone. Two bays at either end project slightly. Arched openings 1st and 3rd floors; second floor has flat arches. Two arched entrances to either side central block.

Alterations: ☐ Formstone ☐ Stucco
☐ Vinyl/Aluminum ☒ Window/Door Changes
☐ Awnings ☐ Missing Cornice Elements
☐ First-Floor Use Change ☐ Other: _____

Status: ☒ Occupied ☐ Vacant ☐ Mixed

NR Evaluation: ☒ Contributing ☐ Non-Contributing

Recommended for Intensive Level: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Surveyor: Joey Lampl

Affiliation: Robinson & Associates

Date: February-April 1992

103

182

190

191

CHAPPELL

ST.

N. CAREY

PUBLIC SCHOOL NO. 191

NEAR PARKWAY

LAUREL GLE

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AV.

N. FREMONT

183

182

N. CAREY

N. STOCKTON

PRESSTMAN

AV.

N. FREMONT

B-4467
African-American School No.9
Baltimore, MD
Sanborn Map, 1901

PRESSTMAN

183

ST.

GEO SCHUMACHER

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B-4467
African-American School No.9
Baltimore, MD
Baltimore West Quadrangle



SANDTOWN - WINCHESTER / PENN - NORTH

#B-4467

BALTIMORE, MD

ELIZABETH 90 LAMPL

MARCH 1992

CITY OF BALTIMORE, COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION

HISTORIC: ~~AFRICAN-AMERICAN~~ School No. 9

CURRENT: ELDERLY HOUSING

CORNER, SCHOOL AND CAREY STS. (1431 Carey Street)

VIEW FACING EAST

ROLL 6/NEG 0

1 of 2

(AT RIGHT OF SCHOOL IS ST. PETER'S COLLEGE -- GABLE-ROOF -- PRE-1890)

BY 1914: ST. PETER CLAVEE'S PAROCHIAL SCHOOL)



Sandtown-Winchester / Penn North

#B-4467

Baltimore, MD

Leonard Jackson

July 1992

City of Baltimore, Commission for Historical and Architectural
Preservation

Historic : African-American School No. 9

Current : Elderly Housing

1431 Carey Street

2 of 2
VIEW FACING EAST

Roll 9 / Neg 3